ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A developer for developing an electrostatic latent image is formed from toner particles each comprising a binder resin and a colorant, inorganic fine powder having a number-average particle size of 4 - 80 nm based on primary particles, and electroconductive fine powder. The developer is characterized by having a number-basis particle size distribution in the range of 0.60 - 159.21 μm including 15 - 60 % by number of particles in the range of 1.00 - 2.00 μm, and 15 - 70 % by number of particles in the range of 3.00 - 8.96 μm, each particle size range including its lower limit and excluding its upper limit. As a result of inclusion an appropriate amount of the electroconductive fine powder represented by the particle size fraction of 1.00 - 2.00 μm, the developer is suitably used in an image forming method including a contact charging step of charging the image-bearing member based on the direct injection charging mechanism and also in an image forming method including a developing-cleaning step of developing the electrostatic latent image and recovering the developer remaining on the image-bearing member after the transfer step.